issued by the end of 1983 when such prohibition would also be applicable to the aforesaid three States. In the *intervening period prosecution for* offences relating to Ganja are covered under the rules framed under section 10 of the aforesaid Act by the State Government read with their respective excise laws. The prosecution should therefore be covered under the rules framed by the Delhi State Administration under section 10 of the aforesaid Act read with their excise laws: The Delhi Administration has, therefore, appropriately been advised to file a Revision in the Competent Higher Court.

Representation of SC/ST in Class 'A' posts of Government

1899. SHRI H. HANMANTHAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Class 'A' posts of the Central Government; and

*(b) what steps Government pro*pose to take to improve the percentage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in these posts?

THE DEPUTY MINISTRY IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) The percentage of representation of Group 'A' posts of the Central Government as on 1-1-1985, is 7.30 per cent and 1.73 per cent for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes respectively.

(b) In posts which are filled by Direct Recruitment, various concessions in age, travelling allowances, relaxation in minmum standard and relaxation in experience qualification have been provided. Provision also exists for separate interview of candidates belonging to these communities as well as total exemption for them from payment of fees. In some cases, Limited Departmental examinations confined only to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates are also held. Coaching centres have also been started to prepare Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates for various competitive examinations, for recruitment to various services/posts. These steps are resulting in progressive improvement in the representation of Scheduled *Castes and Scheduled Tribes in* Group 'A' Posts.

Technology for Silicon Solar Cells

1900. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while rejecting the import of photovoltaic technology for silicon solar cells in favour of the know-how developed by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited and Central Electronics Limited, Government has discarded the Import Substitution Award Winning solar cell technology, developed by the Solid State Physics Laboratory of the Ministry of Defence, because it was never commercialised, no foreign exchange was saved and yet imports were deemed to have been substituted;

(b) what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what action is contemplated against persons responsible for misleading the country and for failing to take remedial steps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI

K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) Proposals for import of technologies for commercial production of solar cells using crystaline silicon were under the consideration of Government. In this regard in 1986, the Government examined the technologies of solar cells using crystaline silicon, which have been established for commercial production only and noted that the production technologies at Central Electronics Ltd. (CEL) and Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) were comparable with similar proven technology elsewhere in the world. Hence import of comparable technology to produce silicon solar cells is not being allowed.

Solid State Physics Laboratory (SSPL) of Ministry of Defence had developed silicon solar cells in late 60s, for which import substitution award was given by National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) in December 1969. Silicon solar cell arrays consisting of approximately 180 cells were made for powering transreceiver sets. This technology of the silicon solar cells was referred to NRDC in 1971 but there was little response from entrepreneurs.

(c) Does not arise.

Area of Exclusive Economic Zone of India

1901. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total area of Exclusive Economic Zone of India in the Indian Ocean and total area of sea surrounding India;

(b) what is the target of fish harvest during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(c) what is the target of polymetallic nodules to be exploited during the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(d) whether the work in this regard is going on as per schedules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The total area of Exclusive Economic Zone of India is 2.02 million sq. km. and that of the Indian Ocean is 73.6 million sq. km.

(b) The target of fish harvest for the Seventh Plan is 3.4 million tonnes consisting of 2.0 million tonnes of marine fish and 1.4 million tonnes of inland fish.

(c) During the Seventh Five Year Plan, in the area of polymetallic nodules, work will be confined to extensive survey and exploration and research and development work on extractive metallurgy and environmental studies on mining.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Per capita income fixed for deciding the poverty line

1902. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the per-capita income fixed for deciding the poverty line and in which year this was fixed; and

(b) whether there is a proposal to revise the level of per-capita income fixed for deciding the poverty line considering the revised value of the Rupee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) In the absence of income distribution statistics, the poverty line is fixed on the basis of per capita monthly expenditure.